Inside Wallops

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Students Spend Summer Vacation Working at NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Most students take a break from educational activities during the summer and enjoy lazy days at the beach or vacations with their families.

Sleeping late is not an option for nine local students that are spending their summer vacation working at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Photo by Keith Koehler

Wallops student interns are (left to right) Rudy Jadeja, Sidrah Ahmad, James Patnoe, Nayo Howard, Roger Williamson, Lucita Waters, Neil Bonsteel and Amanda Deal. Absent from photo, Jenna Evans.

Students taking part in the 2002 Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) and the National Space Club Scholars are working eight-hour days, five days a week along side a NASA mentor at various locations at Wallops.

SHARP students are spending an eight-week internship and Space Club Scholars are spending a six-week internship that began on June 24 with a scientist, engineer, or technician in different fields ranging from computer technology to mechanical engineering and fabrication of payloads.

Applications for both programs are distributed to area high school guidance counselors in February of each year. Interested students then submit the applications to NASA.

Selections for placement in the programs are made on a competitive basis. Once the students have been selected, they are assigned to work with a mentor in a specific area of science or technology.

SHARP was established by NASA in 1980 in response to a presidential directive for all federal laboratories and research institutions to conduct summer apprenticeship programs for high school students traditionally underrepresented in the fields of science, mathematics, technology, engineering, and geography.

The objective of SHARP is to stimulate broader interest in underrepresented communities in science and engineering careers and to establish individual working relationships between students and active researchers.

Both programs offer an intensive science and engineering apprenticeship and are designed to increase, strengthen and diversify the pool of students for mathematics, science and engineering college majors and careers.

During the summer stay, students have an opportunity to conduct meaningful research and participate in several educational and professional activities.

The SHARP students are Sidrah Ahmad, Pocomoke High; Neil Bonsteel, Parkside High; Lucita Waters and Amanda Deal, Chincoteague High.

Space Club Scholar students are James Patnoe, Snow Hill High; Rudy Jadeja, Pocomoke High; Jenna Evans, Arcadia High; Nayo Howard and Roger Williamson, Parkside High.

For more information on the SHARP and Space Club Scholar programs visit: http://www.wff.nasa.gov/weo/Opportunities%20for%20Students.htm

Wallops Shorts……

Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched on July 25 from Palestine, Texas. The 3.46 million cubic foot balloon carried a special projects payload. Dr. Bruce Anspaugh, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, was the principal investigator for the mission. Total flight time was 4 hours 55 minutes and float altitude was 117,000 feet. The payload was being recovered.

Wallops EO Office Relocated

The Wallops Equal Opportunity Programs Office has been relocated within Building E105 to room 302. Lisa Johnson's extension remains 1412.

Class Action Settlement

To view Center Direcor Al Diaz's letter to employees about the recent Class Action filed by African American, non-managerial scientists and engineers (S&E's) concerning opportunities for promotions at the upper grades visit: http://internal.gsfc.nasa.gov/ClassActionUpdate0712.htm Final approval of Class Settlement is now posted on the EEO home page at http://eeo.gsfc.nasa.gov/classaction.html

Wallops in the News

The Public Affairs Office maintains a scrapbook of articles pertaining to Wallops. The following is a listing of recent articles. Anyone interested in reading the entire article should call Betty on x1584 or Keith on x1579.

Spaceflight Magazine (front cover picture) Balloon article "Tiger in Antarctica"

WMDT-TV Channel 47 Salisbury
Wallops Education Program aired July 24

SpaceRef.com
"Letter from Rep. Dave Weldon Regarding FY 2003 VA-HUD Independent Agencies Appropriation Bill"

Winnipeg Free Press
"Big Bang' balloon to lift off in Lynn Lake NASA scientists take aim at mysteries of universe"

Florida Today
"Launch wording worries Weldon"

NASA's Mission: **To understand and protect our home planet; To explore the Universe and search for life; To inspire the next generation of explorers ..... as only NASA can.**

Heat-Related Illness

Heat-related illnesses are of major concern during the current record setting high temperatures. Anyone exposed to very warm temperatures, should drink large amounts of cool liquids containing dilute amounts of electrolytes and sugar.

All caffeinated and alcohol-containing beverages should be avoided. Their diuretic effects can result in an accelerated loss of body water. Light, reflective clothing should be worn, especially if in direct sunlight. Use a spray bottle filled with water to mist skin frequently to increase evaporative heat loss.

Some medications can interfere with the body's normal temperature control mechanisms. These include antihistamines, antidepressants, and antispasmodics.

Small children require special consideration during periods of excessive heat. Give your infant plenty to drink and dress them for the temperature. Older children should be given the same liquids as recommended for adults.

Elderly or chronically-ill individuals also are at increased risk of heat-related illness. These individuals require special attention, especially those with conditions such as Alzheimer's disease or neurologic deficits after strokes who may be unable to recognize early signs of heat-related symptoms and/or physically unable to do what is necessary to prevent heat-related problems. If you have an elderly or ill friend or relative who is living alone without air-conditioning, check on the individual frequently or, even better, consider bringing that person into your home until the heat wave passes.

Heat Cramps

These are caused by electrolyte losses combined with hypotonic fluid intake. Most commonly involved are the larger muscle groups, especially in the lower extremities. The individual usually has a normal temperature and no symptoms other than the cramps.

Treatment consists of rest in a cool environment and administration of 500-1000ml of a balanced oral electrolyte solution (e.g., Gatorade). If the individual is unable to tolerate oral solutions, he should be transported immediately to the nearest urgent care or emergency facility for further medical evaluation.

Heat Exhaustion

This occurs in unacclimatized individuals who exercise vigorously in a hot environment while losing excess electrolytes and water. Such individuals usually have a normal or minimally increased temperature, but typically have one or more of the following: headache, dizziness, nausea/vomiting, weakness, irritability, profuse sweating and muscle cramps.

Treatment consists of rest in a cool environment with additional evaporative cooling achieved by providing fans to blow over the individual's skin while misting with water. Fluid and electrolyte replacement is accomplished the same as for heat cramps. The affected individual should be evaluated by a physician as soon as possible.

Heat Stroke

This is often caused by a prolonged period of vigorous exercise in an environment of high temperature and humidity. Typically, the affected individual may be a laborer working outside on a hot, humid summer day without access to water, or a noon-time jogger who runs a long distance in the same environment without fluid replacement.

Small infants, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses such as diabetes - can develop this condition at rest if confined for a prolonged period in an environment of high temperature and humidity with inadequate oral intake of water and electrolytes.

Core temperature may exceed 105 degrees Fahrenheit. The affected individual will usually exhibit an altered mental status - confusion, delirium or coma.

This is a medical emergency that can lead to death!

Immediately begin to cool the affected individual by application of ice packs to the groin, chest and under the arms. Call for an ambulance to transfer the affected individual to the nearest emergency medical facility.

Photo courtesy of Rich Rogers.

Jason Wood, U.S. Department of Agriculture employee and Wildlife Program Specialist for Wallops (left) and Ed Sudendorf, NASA Wallops Airport Manager (right) were presented the Quarterly Aviation Safety Superstar Award on July 23. Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager (center) made the presentations.

VIMS Offers Public Seminars

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science, (VIMS) in collaboration with the Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, will present the next in a continuing series of public seminars on natural resource and ecological issues.

Wednesday, August 7, 2002
7:30 p.m.
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Wachapreague, VA

"The Myth of the Independent Waterman"
Dr. Victor Liguori
College of William and Mary

Dr. Liguori is a Fisheries Anthropologist who recently retired from the Sociology Department of the College of William and Mary.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Seating capacity is for 100 people and space is available on a first come first serve basis. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. For further information or directions call, (757) 787-5816.

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season Ends July 31

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is an excellent way to increase your personal savings and provide retirement income.

Open season changes may be made through Employee Express; no paperwork submission is required. For further information visit: http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/hot/tspopenseason.htm

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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